Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061361

53
ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 NSC-07 CAB-09 CIAE-00

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EUR/CE - MR. BECKER
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CAB - MR. BURCH
---------- 119040
R 272109Z MAR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION BERLIN
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, AU, GW
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PROPOSED BERLIN-VIENNA SERVICE
REF: A) VIENNA 1442; B) BONN 5275 (1972); C) STATE 41867;
D) BERLIN 305; E) STATE 30566; F) VIENNA 7943

1. DEPT PLANS TO HAND AUSTRIANS NOTE IN WASHINGTON
NEXT WEEK REGARDING DAILY BERLIN-VIENNA TURNAROUND SERVICE
BY PAN AM. POSTS COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED ON PROPOSED TEXT
OF NOTE AND ON NATURE OF APPROACH. TEXT OF NOTE FOLLOWS:
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PAGE 02 STATE 061361

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

"THE SECRETARY OF STATE PRESENTS HIS COMPLIMENTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA AND HAS THE HONOR TO REQUEST HIS ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING THE INITIATION OF SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE BY A UNITED STATES AIRLINE BETWEEN VIENNA AND BERLIN.

"AS THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT IS AWARE, THE U.S. AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE ENCOURAGED THE PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE AIR SERVICE BETWEEN BERLIN AND OTHER CITIES IN EUROPE AS A MEANS OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VIABILITY OF BERLIN. THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS SO THAT THE AUSTRIAN AIRLINE, TO WHICH THE ALLIES IN 1972 GRANTED LANDING RIGHTS AT WEST BERLIN, COULD OFFER

SUCH A SERVICE TO THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN.

"UNDERTHE AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF JULY 23, 1966, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRIA, THE U.S. DESIGNATED AIRLINE COULD CARRY TRAFFIC BETWEEN VIENNA AND BERLIN AS PART OF AN AIR SERVICE FROM THE U.S. TO VIENNA VIA THE INTERMEDIATE POINT OF BERLIN. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF CERTAIN OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS, THE UNITED STATES AIRLINE WOULD WISH TO EXERCISE THESE RIGHTS BY OPERATING A TURN-AROUND SERVICE DIRECTLY BETWEEN VIENNA AND BERLIN. THE USG WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING CONFIRMATION THAT THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARED TO ALLOW SUCH A SERVICE. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT, FOR AT LEAST A TRIAL PERIOD, PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS WOULD OPERATE A DAILY ROUNDTRIP SERVICE USING 727 AIRCRAFT, BEGINNING ABOUT JUNE 1, 1974."

2. WE REALIZE GOA MAY VIEW PROPOSED SERVICE AS COMMERCIAL THREAT TO AUSTRIAN AIRLINE'S (AUA) VIENNA-SCHOENEFELD OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, AUSTRIANS ARE ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING NEED FOR DIRECT VIENNA-WEST BERLIN SERVICE, EVEN THOUGH AUA HAS SHOWN SCANT INTEREST IN EXTRACTING NECESSARY OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FROM GDR TO EXPLOIT WEST BERLIN LANDING RIGHTS GRANTED BY ALLIES IN 1972. WE INTEND, THEREFORE, TO JUSTIFY OUR PROPOSED SERVICE ON BASIS OF RECOGNIZED PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AS WELL AS ON BERLIN-
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PAGE 03 STATE 061361

RELATED POLITICAL GROUNDS. (REF E).

3. IN WAKE OF DELIVERY OF NOTE TO AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, EMBASSY VIENNA SHOULD DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIALS, AND US MISSION BERLIN SHOULD LOBBY AUSTRIAN CONSUL GENERAL AS APPROPRIATE (REF D). IN MAKING PRESENTATION, POSTS SHOULD, IN ADDITION TO POINTS MADE IN STATE 30566, DRAW ON APRIL 1972

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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DISCUSSION IN WHICH AUA OFFICIAL (SECGEN BAMMER) EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT GOA, AS WELL AS AUA, WOULD PROVE RECEPTIVE TO REQUEST FOR RECIPROCAL BERLIN-VIENNA RIGHTS FOR ALLIED AIRLINE (PARA 6, REF B).

4. WITH REGARD TO PAN AM'S ALLEGED NEW YORK "MONOPOLY", EMBASSY MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT AUA HAS OPTION UNDER US-GOA AIR AGREEMENT TO OPERATE TO BOTH NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, BUT HAS CHOSEN NOT TO DO SO. ALTHOUGH PAN AM WAS INVOLVED IN OPPOSING OVERSEAS NATIONAL (ONA)-AUSTRIAN AIR TRANSPORT (AAT) "WET LEASE" (LEASE OF AIR-CRAFT AND US CREW) PROPOSAL IN 1973, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED FOR GOA THAT THE ARRANGEMENT FOUNDERED NOT BECAUSE OF US AIRLINE OPPOSITION BUT BECAUSE OF CERTAIN MISREPRESENTA-TIONS MADE TO CAB BY AUSTRIAN AIR TRANSPORT (AAT) AND SUR-FACED BY US CHARTER AIRLINE(REF F). IT APPEARS IN ANY CASE

THAT ONA IS NOW MEETING THE NEEDS OF AAT USING "DRY LEASE" (LEASE OF AIRCRAFT FOR OPERATION BY CREW OF AUSTRIAN NATIONALS) AND THAT BOTH AAT AND ONA HAVE LOST INTEREST IN "WET LEASE" PROPOSAL. NONETHELESS, CAB IS PROCESSING AMENDED APPLICATION, WHICH PROBABLY WILL BE SET DOWN FOR HEARING IN NEXT MONTH OR TWO. RUSH

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Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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EO Systematic Review
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